

SURVEY OF FRESHWATER FISHES FROM LATUR DISTRICT, (M.S.) INDIA**Pathan A.V.**

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(Email khanamjed777@gmail.com)**ABSTRACT**

The present study deals with the survey of freshwater fishes from Latur District (M. S.) India, during annual survey from June 2012 to May 2013. The report summarizes the data of freshwater fishes. Fish samples were collected from different localities of Latur District, Maharashtra State, namely Ausa, Nilanga, Ahemadpur, Deoni, Jalkot, Renapur, Latur, Shirur-Anantpal, Chakur and Udgir.

KEYWORD: Freshwater fishes, Latur District, Maharashtra, Survey.**INTRODUCTION**

India is the mega biodiversity country in the world. Fish are the most important inhabitants of the aquatic ecosystem mainly marine and fresh water and provides the human population cheap and easily digestible proteins. The major component of fish is protein. Fish proteins have a high biological value. It also contains variable quantities of calcium, phosphate, fat and other nutrient important for human health and growth. Fish provides the world's prime source of high quality protein, 14-16% of the animal protein consumed worldwide; over one billion people consume fish as their primary source of animal protein.

Recent studies indicate that of 750 species of freshwater fish species found in India, a large number of them are familiar only to the local population. These species are better known to the rural population due to the importance they attach to these species as a vital and affordable source of nutrition.

Present study was undertaken for identification listing and making data of freshwater fish species from Latur District which is located at 18.4° N 76.58° E. The district is situated on the Maharashtra - Karnataka boundary. The entire district of Latur is situated on the Balaghatplateau, 540 to 638 metres from the mean sea level. The district has a river Manjra and Subrivers – Tawarja, Gharni, Terna, Manar, and Lendi.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The freshwater fishes were collected from different places of Latur district (MS) India from June 2012 to May 2013. The meristic and morphometric characters of fishes were measured and fishes were identified up to species level using standard keys and books. Fish species collected were preserved in 10 % formalin. These fish samples were brought to research laboratory, Department of Zoology, D.B.F. Dayanand College of Arts and Science, Solapur for further identification. Fishes brought to the laboratory were fixed in formalin solution in separate jars according to the size of species. Smaller fishes were directly placed in the formalin solution, while larger fishes were given an incision on the abdomen before they were fixed. The fishes collected and fixed were labeled giving serial numbers, exact locality from where collected, date of the collection. The common local name of fish used in this region was labeled in each jar containing the fish. Identifications done were based on keys for fishes of the Indian sub-continent (Day, 1958, Jayaram, 1981, 1999, Talwar and Jhingran, 1991). Classification was carried out on lines of Day (1889), Nelson (1976) and Jayaram (1981).

The identification of the species was done mainly on the basis of the color pattern, specific spots or marks on the surface of the body, shape of the body, structure of various fins.

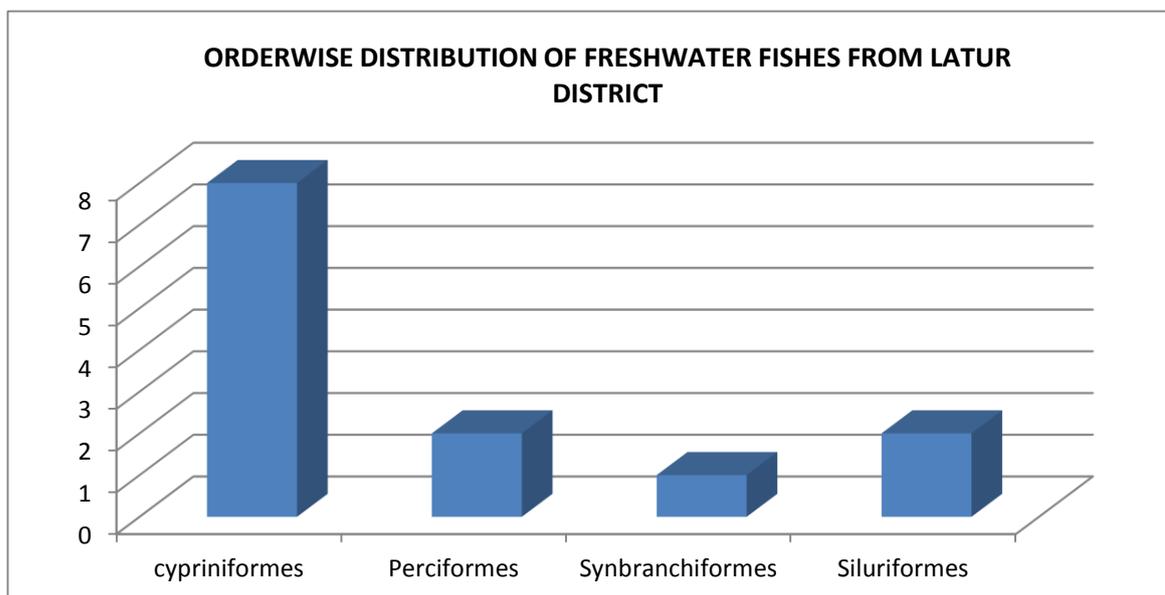
RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The results are shown in Table 1 and Graph 1. During the study period it was observed that the ichthyofauna of Latur district belongs to 04 order, 05 families, 13 species where Cyprinidae family is dominant with 8 species beside family Channidae, Cichlidae, Mastacembelidae and Clariidae contribute 02 species. Among Cypriniformes comprises *Cirrhinus mrigala*, *Labeo rohita*, *Catla catla*, *Puntius ticto*, *Hypophthalmichthys molitrix*, *Cyprinus carpio*,

Ctenopharyngodon idella, *Rasbora daniconius* and *Wallago attu* were abundantly recorded. The present work will provide a database for developing agencies of fish and fishery to sustain the ichthyofaunal diversity of Latur district. The purpose of this survey was to estimate the present status of freshwater fish to provide information for further studies.

Table 1: Survey of different edible freshwater fish species showing taxonomic position of Latur district

Order	Family	Scientific name (Species)	Local name
Cypriniformes	Cyprinidae	1. <i>Cirrhinus mrigala</i>	Maral
		2. <i>Labeo-rohita</i>	Rohu
		3. <i>Catla-catla</i>	Catla
		4. <i>Puntiusticto</i>	Ticto
		5. <i>Hypophthalmichthys molitrix</i>	Silver carp
		6. <i>Cyprinus carpio</i>	Supar
		7. <i>Ctenopharyngodonidella</i>	Grass carp
		8. <i>Rasboradaniconius</i>	Rasbora
Perciformes	Channidae	1. <i>Channa punctatus</i>	Channa
	Cichlidae	1. <i>Oreochromismossambica</i>	Tilapia
Synbranchiformes	Mastacembelidae	1. <i>Mastacembalus armatus</i>	Bam
Siluriformes	Clariidae	1. <i>Clarius batrachus</i>	Mangur
		2. <i>Wallagoattu</i>	Balu



Graph-1: Showing the overall Order wise dominant species found in Latur District

CONCLUSION

The one year survey has shown that fresh water fishes from the Latur district shows wide range of freshwater fishes. The study has established that the Order Cypriniformes is dominating others. Variation in freshwater fish fauna is with the diet and the habitat type. The work will provide future strategies for development and fish conservation. So there is need to establish measures to conserve fish fauna by making environment pollution free which is manipulated by human interference. Therefore conservation efforts may require in many ways.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The author thankful to Head, Dept of Zoology, D.B.F. Dayanand College of Arts and Science, Solapur (M.S) India for providing laboratory advances and library Facilities.

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